

MEMORANDUM

January 30, 1964

TO: J. Lee Rankin

FROM: David W. Belin

SUBJECT: Oswald's knowledge that Connally would be  
in the Presidential car and his intended target.

According to the Secret Service Report, Document No. 3, page 11, the route of the motorcade was released on the evening of November 18 and appeared in Dallas newspapers on November 19 as shown in Exhibits 63 and 68 (Document No. 3 is the December 13 Secret Service Report).

In examining these exhibits, although the general route of the motorcade is shown, there is nothing that shows that Governor Connally would be riding in the Presidential car.

In determining the accuracy of Oswald's knowledge, we have three major possibilities: Oswald was shooting at Connally and missed one of the three shots, the two shots striking Kennedy; Oswald was shooting at both Kennedy and Connally and all three shots struck their intended targets; Oswald was shooting only at Kennedy and the second bullet missed the President's target and hit Connally instead.

If there was no news media coverage that Connally would be riding in the Presidential car, he would tend to confirm the third alternative that Oswald was the only intended target. This is true even on the basis of the assassination, and also on the degree of confidence in Oswald, which in turn affects the determination that Oswald was the assassin and that it was not too difficult to hit the intended target (one out of the three shots in this particular situation).

In any event, I believe it would be most helpful to have the FBI investigate the television, television and radio reports from November 19, or November 20 in Dallas to ascertain whether or not in any of these reports there was a public statement that Connally would be riding in the Presidential car. If such public announcement was made, we would have significantly over that which had been.

Of course, there is another aspect of timing. If Connally's position in the motorcade was not released until the afternoon of November 19, then the assassin would have had to get the message, he would not have necessarily aimed at Connally as a target.

Finally, we would like to know whether or not there was any release of information that Connally would ride in the car in the morning, afternoon or evening or not at all the Presidential car.

Thank you